



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

BULLETIN
OF THE
TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB.

Vol. 21.

Lancaster, Pa., June 20, 1894.

No. 6.

Thomas Morong.

BY N. L. BRITTON.

Thomas Morong, Curator of the Herbarium of Columbia College, died at Boston, Mass., April 26, 1894, after an illness of nearly four months. He had been troubled by a cough during the autumn of 1893, and in December, hoping for a speedy cure, accompanied Mr. John K. Small and the writer of this sketch, to Charleston, S. C., planning to remain for a few weeks in the South and return to his post before spring. But his malady was of a more serious character than he or any of his associates had supposed, and in January, while in Jacksonville, Fla., he was obliged to seek medical treatment, and for the next three months remained in St. Luke's Hospital in that city, improving a little at times so that he could be out of doors and enjoy the rapidly advancing season; but on the whole, failing in general health, so that, while he was favored with the best of medical attendance and care, it became evident by March that he could not recover. He came North about the middle of April, proceeding directly by rail to Boston, where he went to the house of his son, Dr. A. B. Morong, and there died within two weeks after his arrival.

He was too feeble to carry on much correspondence during his stay in Jacksonville, but the few letters written by him indicate that his cheerful, uncomplaining, happy disposition remained with him up to the last.

He was born at Cahawba, Ala., April 15, 1827, and his boyhood was spent in the South. On the death of his father, about

1842, his mother with a family of four sons removed to Woburn, Mass. He has frequently related to us his recollections of his first spring in Northern lands, having been particularly impressed with the beauty of the fruit trees in full bloom. We have heard him say that he was then, and until his majority, under the charge of a guardian. He was prepared for college at Woburn and Medford, entered Amherst, and was graduated from that institution in 1848. A portion of the year following was spent in the Law School of Harvard College, and in 1850 he became a member of Andover Theological Seminary, graduating in 1853, and being ordained a Congregational clergyman in 1854, a profession which he followed almost without intermission until 1888, preaching successively in Iowa City, Iowa, and Webster, Globe Village, Gloucester, Ipswich and Ashland, Mass.

It appears to have been association with William Oakes, of Ipswich, and Dr. J. W. Robbins, of Uxbridge, that first awakened in him a taste for botanical study. These diligent and critical students of the New England flora each furnished him with material for the nucleus of an herbarium, and from Dr. Robbins he received his entire collection of Naiadaceæ, with the understanding that Mr. Morong was to continue Dr. Robbins' researches on this group of plants—a trust that we know has been faithfully fulfilled.

All Mr. Morong's material of this order was incorporated by him with the herbarium which in later years came under his charge, and it there awaits a student who will continue the work begun by Dr. Robbins. The collection of these plants is one of the most complete in existence, almost every described species being represented, most of them abundantly.

The writer's first acquaintance with Mr. Morong was at the Buffalo meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1886. He at that time spoke to me of a great desire to visit one of his brothers, a resident of Chile, and at the same time collect and study the flora of some portion of South America, he having been greatly impressed with the success of Dr. Rusby's Bolivian expedition. Some correspondence in relation to the plan passed between us subsequently, and we consulted with Dr. Allen during the New York meeting of the American Association the following year, with the result that between the

three the expedition was arranged, and the explorer set out by sailing vessel for Paraguay in the summer of 1888.

A botanical collector was never better equipped. Even the wooden cases in which the collections were sent home were taken along in pieces with a supply of screws for fastening them together. After a necessarily uneventful voyage of 67 days, the vessel reached Buenos Ayres, and a few days were spent there in consultation with some of the local naturalists, and a few plants collected. But Paraguay was the region chosen, and within a few weeks the explorer was settled in Assumption, and immediately began the work of collecting and of carefully recording in note books all the gross features of the plants obtained. These note books were most systematically kept, and they enabled him on his return to write up the account of his collections in a manner which has rarely been equalled. With Assumption as a centre, Central Paraguay was carefully explored for nearly a year. Opportunity was then offered for an examination of the flora of the boundary region between Paraguay and the Argentine Republic along the Pilcomayo River, through the operations of a surveying party, which ascended that stream in a small steamer. Our friend gladly accepted the opportunity of accompanying the party in the capacity of naturalist, and the stream was ascended several hundred miles, the journey only being cut short by the lack of water in the upper reaches. After several months' absence, a safe return was effected to Assumption, all the botanical collections being brought down unharmed. After a few weeks more spent in and about Assumption, Mr. Morong proceeded to Buenos Ayres, and took passage on the steamer for Valparaiso, Chile. A stop was made at the Falkland Islands, and a few additions there made to the already very rich collections.

Joining his brother at Coquimbo, advantage was taken of the opportunity of studying the Atacama desert flora, and considerable collections made there and at other points in Chile. In the fall of 1890 he returned to the United States by steamer to the Isthmus, and thence to New Orleans and by rail to New York, having been absent considerably more than two years, during which time he had enjoyed continuous good health and encountered a great variety of pleasant experiences. He has frequently alluded to this

trip as one of the pleasantest portions of his life, and regarded it as the means of greatly prolonging his days.

Letters written by him during his absence are proof of the enjoyment he had in his work. They also clearly indicated his wish to follow botany as his subsequent profession rather than to return to the ministry. It became possible for us to offer him the recreated position of Curator of the Columbia College Herbarium, which he gladly accepted, and he entered on its duties soon after his return. Naturally the first wish of all concerned was that he should record the results of his South American explorations, and these were gradually brought together and published during 1892 and 1893 as the 35th Contribution from the Herbarium which he had in charge; it is not usual for a botanical collector to have the satisfaction of working up and publishing his own material. At the same time he brought together matter for a narrative of the Pilcomayo Expedition, but this has not yet been put into type.

Mr. Morong's intimate knowledge of the Naiadaceæ and the trust accepted by him from Dr. Robbins made it very desirable that he should prepare a monograph of the North American representatives of that order. This was also successfully accomplished, and through the cordial coöperation of several friends it became possible to publish it with complete illustration in the third volume of the MEMOIRS of this Club. Incidentally he had paid close attention to other orders of aquatic Spermatophyta, and during his residence in New York he published descriptive accounts of the Haloragææ and Eriocaulaceæ. He had previously discussed Typhaceæ and Nymphæaceæ. During the autumn of 1893 he had been engaged in monographing the North American species of *Smilax*, and had prepared considerable manuscript, most of which can be printed, as well as a large amount of other material, all of which it is hoped may soon be permanently placed on record. He left scarcely any work which can be characterized as unfinished.

He was deeply interested in the work of the Torrey Club, being a frequent contributor to the interest of its meetings, active in its field operations, and for one season took charge of its summer course of instruction. He was elected a Vice-President in 1892, and continued in the office until his death.

His principal botanical publications are as follows:

New species of *Potamogeton* with Notes upon some published Forms. Bot. Gaz. 5: 50-53 (1880).

Potamogeton Vaseyi Robbins. Bot. Gaz. 5: 89 (1880).

Potamogeton Hillii n. sp. Bot. Gaz. 6: 290, 291 (1881).

Notes on Naiadaceæ. Bot. Gaz. 10: 254-256 (1885).

Collection of aquatic Plants. Bot. Gaz. 11: 139, 140, 193 (1886).

Revision of the North American Species of *Nuphar*. Bot. Gaz. 11: 164-169 (1886).

A new Species of *Potamogeton*. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, 13: 45 (1886).

Naiadaceæ in the Torrey Herbarium. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, 13: 153-162 (1886).

Some new or little known American Plants. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, 14: 51, 52 (1887).

Studies in the Typhaceæ. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, 15: 1-8; 73-81 (1888).

A new Water-lily. Bot. Gaz. 13: 124, 125 (1888).

Paraguay and its Flora. Bot. Gaz. 14: 222-227; 240-253 (1889).

First Glimpses of South American Vegetation. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, 16: 43-49 (1889).

The Flora of the Desert of Atacama. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, 18: 39-48 (1891).

Myriophyllum Farwellii n. sp. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, 18: 146, 147 (1891).

Horticulture in the Copiapo Valley, Chile. Amer. Gard. 12: 227-230 (1891).

Jesuits' Tea. Bull. Pharm. 5: 549-554 (1891).

Copernicia cerifera. Bull. Pharm. 6: (1892).

Notes on North American Halorageæ. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, 18: 229-246 (1891).

Notes on the North American Species of Eriocaulæ. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, 18: 351-362 (1891).

Eriocaulon bilobatum n. sp. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, 19: 226, 227 (1892).

An Enumeration of the Plants collected in Paraguay, 1888-1890, Annals N. Y. Acad. Sci. (1899-1893).

A Revision of the North American Naiadaceæ. Mem. Torr. Bot. Club, 3: Part. 2, pp. 65 (1893).

A new Species of *Listera* with notes on other Orchids. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, 20: 31-39, 121, 122 (1893).

Thomas Hogg. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, 20: 217, 218 (1893).

Notes upon various Species of Iridaceæ and other Orders. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, 20: 467-473 (1893.)

Mr. Morong was a most diligent and painstaking worker. He systematically came to his post at eight o'clock in the morning and remained until two in the afternoon. After lunch he never failed to take his hour's *siesta*, a Paraguayan habit which he thoroughly enjoyed, and was back again at work from four until eight or often later. Personally he was a delightful man, always cheerful, usually gay, overflowing with interesting, instructive and amusing remarks, generous to a fault and constantly mindful of the feelings and wishes of others. His death has lost to American Science one of its most earnest, critical and enthusiastic devotees, and to those who have been favored with his companionship a dear friend, a wise adviser, a beloved associate.

A Revision of the Genus *Lechea*.

BY N. L. BRITTON.

The genus *Lechea* was named by Kalm in 1751* in honor of John Leche, a Swedish botanist. Linnæus took it up in 1753, in the first edition of his "Species Plantarum," and there indicated two species, *L. minor* and *L. major*. His *Lechea major* proved to be a *Helianthemum*, thus leaving *L. minor* as the type of the genus. Michaux added several species in 1803. Spach discussed the order Cistaceæ in 1836, and in the same year appeared Rafinesque's monograph of the genus,† where twenty-one species

*Linnæus, Nova Pl. Gen. 10; Amœn. Acad. 3: 10.

†New Fl. N. A. 89-98 (1836); reprinted by Leggett in Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, 6: 246-252, with annotations.